

# Austin's History of Minorities and Representation

Elected officials subverted democracy throughout Austin's history:

- Politicians choose their voters; stop voters choosing their representatives
- Disenfranchise minorities (Blacks after Reconstruction; Swedes, Irish, and Germans in the early 1900s; Blacks during Jim Crow; Hispanics in the mid-1900s)
- As Austin minorities gained representation, the establishment changed the rules to disenfranchise the minorities.

That drive to subvert democracy and squash minorities continues today

- At-large elections
- "Place" elections
- The "Gentlemen's Agreement"
- Attempts to prevent 10-1 geographic representation

The ICRC was created, and its membership is screened, to:

- Prevent politicians from choosing their voters
- Assure voters, especially minority voters, choose their elected officials
- Protect Austin from gerrymandering.